GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4865
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2000
RENOVATION OF VISA HALL
RADHA MOHAN SINGH

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the High Commission of India, Londonengaged a computer consultant and renovated its visa hall and spent Rs. 32 lakhs and Rs. 59 lakhs respectively, unauthorisedly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) & (b) The High Commission in London had undertaken the project to renovate the visa hall as well as to upgrade and computerise the consular work process with the approval of the Ministry of External Affairs. However, due to a number of variations and additions introduced during the renovation work, certain excess expenditure was incurred by the High Commission of India. Similarly, the High Commission had spent certain additional amount on the hiring of services of a computer consultant required to advise the High Commission on the computerisation project.

(c) The expenditure thus committed, though higher than original approved amount, were authorized by the Ministry. Mission has provided the relevant details to the Ministry on the above.